MUFFINS FOR DAY AND NIGHT GO SWEET OR SAVOURY {page 17}

WAITING GAME

FRIENDS SAY RENEE WEARY OF WAITING FOR RING {page 14}

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Wednesday, March 23, 2011
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News worth sharing.

World. Water Day

▶ Grade 9 students from St. Helena Junior High School, left to right, Aura Hernandez, Maria Ramirez, Megan D'Souza and Michelle Lobo show off the reusable water bottles they're selling, for $10 each, in order to raise money for biosand water filters.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Not taking water for granted

In honour of World Water Day, the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology hosted students from across Calgary who showed off their water-awareness projects. Students were given a $500 grant to create a project that would educate their peers.

Calgarian heads for Japan

Man asked to help out in relief effort while on vacation {page 4}

Budget full of many goodies

Looming election may get in the way of budget measures {page 6}

CBE feeling 'sick' over job cuts

- Education board attempting to close $61.7M budget gap created by provincial budget
- Next school year will see 172 fewer positions

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

School principals and centralized service staff with the Calgary Board of Education were informed yesterday their jobs are in jeopardy due to a large budget shortfall.

Although the exact number of position cuts will remain unclear until later this spring, chief superintendent Naomi Johnson said the impact will be felt in all areas of the CBE.

"It will be our young teachers who are impacted, and we have no idea yet how many that will be, but $61.7 million — you can do the math," she said. "That will impact a lot of people."

Chair of the board of trustees Pat Cochrane said she felt "sick" about the cuts and called on the province to "stop this nonsense."

"If you continue to cut in this way, in this fairly haphazard way, and make us make these kinds of decisions, it's going to eventually affect the quality of education that the children get," she said.

Jenny Regal, president of Calgary Public Teachers, said these cuts will continue to put strain on local teachers.

"I can assure you that the teachers in classrooms, however many there are remaining, will do everything they can within their power to serve the needs of those kids ... but you cannot lose hundreds of positions in two years running total without having an impact on learning."

Chairperson's concerns

- **Education** Larry Leach, chairperson for the Association for Responsive Trusteeship in Calgary Schools (ARTICS), said he's concerned about his son's education.
- **Cut** "Usually it's frontline teachers that get cut, and that's what affects our children," said Leach.
- **Money** The estimated requirement from schools is about $100,000 per school.

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AMVIC LICENSED

Stampede promo gets federal funding

The Calgary Stampede could see a boost in international visitors during its centennial year after Ottawa announced it will dole out millions for marketing.

If passed, the federal budget will grant the Canadian Tourism Commission $5 million to reach out to foreigners.

"We market abroad to entice international travellers to visit Canada," said Margaret Nevin, spokesperson for the CTC. "Of course the Calgary Stampede is one of Canada's great tourism icons."

She said the CTC markets to 11 countries and its target audience is "high-spend" travellers looking to see the best of what Canada has to offer.

The Stampede will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2012.

KATIE TURNER

Man exposed himself to girl: Police

Calgary police are on the hunt for a man they say exposed himself to a 13-year-old girl yesterday morning.

Police say the incident took place at about 8:40 a.m. in the 300 block of Mount Douglas Close SE.

The girl was able to run to a nearby school and police were called.

Despite extensive patrols, police were unable to locate the suspect.

He is described as Caucasian, about 40 years old with a medium build. He was wearing a black baseball cap, black pants and a black coat.

METRO

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

▶ Darren Peterson said he was "hopeless, useless, desperate and lost" before turning to Calgary's drug-treatment court.

Cash from province keeps drug court going

▶ 'Program-saving' funds announced yesterday ▶ Initiative allows addicts to be sentenced to rehab as opposed to jail time

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

After 15 years behind bars, Darren Peterson said his boyhood dreams started to fade.

He had begun experimenting with drugs in his teenage years and got caught up in an unbreakable cycle of addiction.

To feed his habit, Peterson turned to crime and eventually landed in court.

"At one point, a judge told me I was a menace to society — a career criminal that if he could have his way he would lock me up and throw away the key," Peterson said.

That's when he turned to Calgary's drug-treatment court. The 18-month program allows a judge to send addicts for structured rehabilitative treatment as opposed to serving jail time.

Peterson said the program saved his life. He now has a job, a spouse and a new outlook on life.

"I even got a Visa, and it actually had my name on it," he joked.

Yesterday, the province announced it would put more than $516,000 into the court for the coming year to allow others in Peterson's situation the opportunity to turn their lives around.

"Offenders now have access to an integrated, individualized approach and it helps them break this cycle of drug abuse," said Justice Minister Verlyn Olson.

Graduating court

- Calgary's drug treatment court, running since 2006, has faced concerns over funding in the past.
- Seven people have graduated from the court this year and another five are slated to do the same in May.
- All participants must complete three stages: mandatory residential treatment, rehabilitation to re-enter the community as well as graduation and sentencing.

1 news

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TWITCHELL TRIAL

Script an outline for murder: Crown

It was called House of Cards, a short film about a philandering man dismembered for his sins, but prosecutors say the seven-minute gorefest was actually Mark Twitchell's dress rehearsal for a murder.

Twitchell, 32, is on trial in Court of Queen's Bench in Edmonton for the death of Johnny Altinger on Oct. 10, 2008.

The prosecution says it will prove that a week after Twitchell and his buddies made House of Cards in a rented garage, he carried out the same scenario for real.

"Mark sent out a general email to people describing being interested in a short indie film based on a killer that finds cheating husbands online, clears out their bank accounts online and kills them," Scott Cooke, one of Twitchell's friends and movie-helpers, told court yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgarian in for the long haul in Japan

- Darren Polischuk is helping co-ordinate a Samaritan's Purse operation
- He hopes to provide victims with 'a sense of purpose for the future'

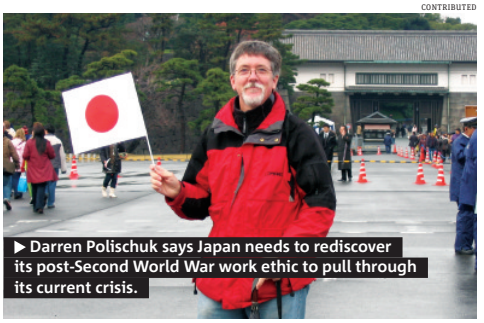
As thousands continue to flee tsunami-ravaged lands on Japan's east coast, a Calgary man is heading into the hardest-hit area with no idea when he will return.

Darren Polischuk was on vacation in the Philippines when he was contacted about offering assistance following the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and the resulting tsunami and constant nuclear threat plaguing the Pacific island nation.

"I left so fast, I didn't even bring proper, warm clothing," he said during a phone interview from Tokyo.

The 49-year-old had previously worked as a missionary in Japan from 2004 to 2008. He said people's spirits are noticeably diminished this time around.

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Darren Polischuk says Japan needs to rediscover its post-Second World War work ethic to pull through its current crisis.

"People here are scared, the radiation concern is tangible," he said. "There's fewer people on the street and much less traffic than there usually is."

Nevertheless, Polischuk has kept busy co-ordinating operations from Tokyo since arriving in Japan last week. Any day now, he will be shipped to Sendai, the capital city of the decimated Miyagi prefecture.

Polischuk said his team has taken all necessary precautions and he is more focused on the task at hand than his own personal safety.

"I have no return ticket at this point," he added.

JEREMY NOLAIS

Aid efforts

- The Samaritan's Purse advance team is already working in Sendai, Japan.
- The organization recently brought 93 tonnes of relief material into the area.
- Darren Polischuk and his team also purchased $76,000 worth of supplies in Tokyo earlier this week.
- His team has been fitted with radiation-detecting tools and receives constant updates about the conditions in the areas they are working in.

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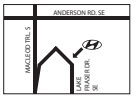

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It's the DOA budget

Flaherty delivered goodies, but with an election looming it's unlikely they'll see the light of day

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty stuffed his budget yesterday with goodies.

They included a return of the home energy retrofit program, tax credits for caregivers, improved pensions for the poorest seniors and breaks for tots' art classes and tutoring.

But with all three opposition parties vowing to trigger an early May election, the likelihood is that none of the measures will see the light of day.

What will survive is the bottom line — the federal government of whatever stripe will have more money to spend or to squirrel away.

Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government is almost certain to fall this week.

In its budget, new program spending worth $2.3 billion is largely offset by cuts elsewhere as the original, recession-fighting budget of 2009 finally expires.

It's all packaged in a conservative document that forecasts the huge federal deficit receding slightly faster than predicted, down to $40.5 billion the year just ending, $29.6 billion in 2011-12 and virtually eliminated four years from now.

"There's nothing in this budget the opposition parties couldn't vote for," Chisholm Pothier, Flaherty's spokesperson, told a briefing.

How wrong he was.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal finance

Single seniors up to $600 a year; couples $840 extra.

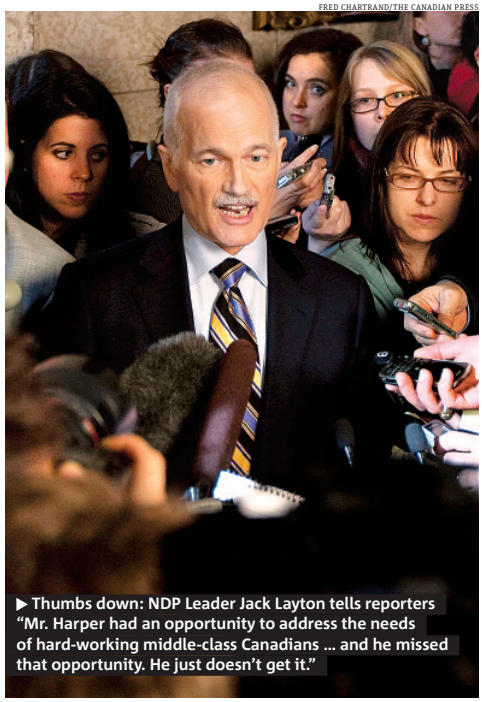
$600

$75 — $500 tax credit for arts programs for children saves parents $75 a year.

$300 — $2,000 family caregiver tax credit worth $300 for caregivers of dependent relatives

$450 — Volunteer firefighters tax credit of $3,000 would save $450 for 200 hours of service a year.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Thumbs down: NDP Leader Jack Layton tells reporters "Mr. Harper had an opportunity to address the needs of hard-working middle-class Canadians ... and he missed that opportunity. He just doesn't get it."

What they said

Some quotes in the wake of the federal budget:

- "We find that the priorities of this government are not the priorities of ordinary Canadians," said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.
- "Nothing in this budget has persuaded me that Mr. Harper has changed his ways. And that's why the NDP will not support this budget in its current form," said NDP Leader Jack Layton.
- "No tax hikes, no substantial spending cuts. I like that very much," said Steve Goudy, a 59-year-old provincial government retiree living in Fredericton.
- "Stephen Harper clearly has the wrong priorities," said Ken Neumann, a top United Steelworkers exec.
- "Better by the day," said Jack Layton, when asked about his health problems.

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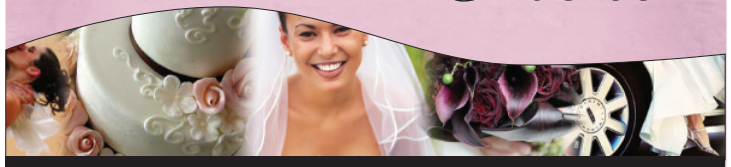

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- First Step Health & Fitness
- Party Pixx
- Hot Tamales
- Cat's Pajamas

Middleton will use Rolls-Royce for wedding

Prince Charles' press office indicated the procession will have five horse-drawn carriages

Kate Middleton will be swept off to her April 29 wedding at Westminster Abbey in a distinctive 1997 Rolls-Royce Phantom VI, and will return to Buckingham Palace in a 1902 horse-drawn carriage.

The distinctive claret and black Rolls-Royce, which was damaged in December when Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, were attacked by student protesters, will have its paintwork and windows repaired by the royal wedding day, officials said yesterday.

The car was damaged Dec. 9 when a mob protesting student fee hikes hit the car with sticks and bottles.

DOMINIC LIPINSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Glass Coach built in 1881 is traditionally used by Royal brides.

"There was paint damage and damage to the glass," said Alex Garty, transport manager at Buckingham Palace. "The repairs are ongoing. We're using that opportunity to give her a 60-minute makeover, so she will look her best for the wedding."

Royal brides have typically arrived for their weddings in special horse-drawn coaches, but Middleton has decided to travel to the church by car.

After the ceremony, she and Prince William will ride in an open-topped 1902 State Landau horse-drawn carriage for the procession back to Buckingham Palace, unless inclement weather leads them to use the famed Glass Coach, which has a fixed roof to keep rain at bay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian pilots abort Libya raid

- U.S. jet crashes, pilots eject, one hides in sheep pen
- Clinton says a Gadhafi son may have been killed

It was just too risky.

Canadian military fighters abandoned an attack on a Libyan airfield and avoided civilian deaths yesterday on their first offensive operation against Moammar Gadhafi since arriving on the weekend.

Defence aide Maj.-Gen. Tom Lawson said the two Canadian pilots and command elements determined the risk of collateral damage was too high.

Battles rage

- Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, was being bombarded by Gadhafi's forces, tanks and snipers controlling the streets.

Meanwhile, an American F-15 jet crashed in the rebel-held east, both crew members ejecting.

One of the pilots parachuted into a rocky field and hid in a sheep pen on a family farm. The pilot left in a car, taking with him water and juice the family provided.

The second pilot was picked up by a helicopter.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told ABC News one of Gadhafi's sons may have been killed. She cited unconfirmed reports and did not say which son she meant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republic of Congo. 19 killed

▶ The Antonov 32's tail stands as a stark monument to disaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plane crash shocks neighbourhood

At least 19 people were killed and many more wounded when a cargo plane crashed in the densely populated neighbourhood of Pointe-Noire, the economic capital of the Republic of Congo, officials said. The Antonov 32 buried several houses in debris. The pilot was able to escape from the cockpit.

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CONSUMER NON-CONFIDENCE

Retail sales fall flat

Canadian retail sales fell unexpectedly in January, thanks primarily to a drop in new car sales, prompting economists to suggest that the Bank of Canada will take its time raising interest rates.

Retail sales fell for the second month in a row to 0.3 per cent or $37.1 billion, Statistics Canada said yesterday — much lower than economists' expectations of a one per cent increase.

The auto industry had the greatest impact on overall numbers, with car sales dropping 1.7 per cent for the second consecutive month after seven months of gains. Gasoline sales also fell 1.4 per cent, the first decline since June.

Outside of the auto industry, sales were also flat. Seven out of 11 sectors reported selling less, but food, building-supply, sporting-goods and department stores reported gains.

Peter Buchanan, senior economist at CIBC World Markets, said the lower spending together with the weaker core inflation rate of 0.9 per cent released last week mean the Bank of Canada might put off expected interest-rate hikes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

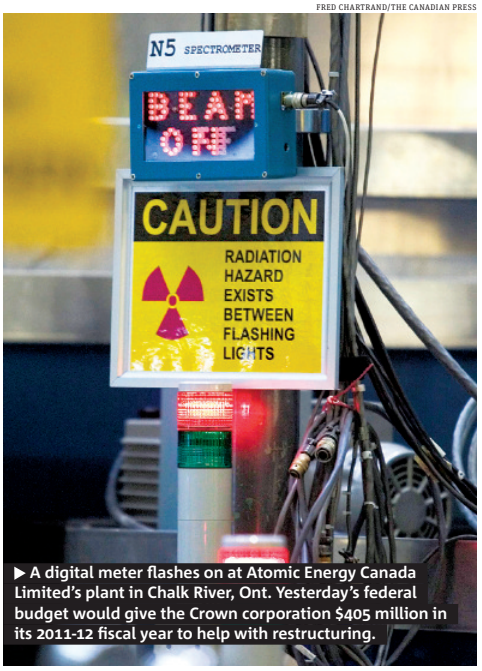
Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold contracts
– 13.7 (14,000)	– 0.02¢ (102.05¢ US)	+ $1.67 US ($104 US)	$4.20 US (+ 3.9¢ US)	$1,427.60 US (+ $1.20 US)

Big breaks for small business in budget

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A digital meter flashes on at Atomic Energy Canada Limited's plant in Chalk River, Ont. Yesterday's federal budget would give the Crown corporation $405 million in its 2011-12 fiscal year to help with restructuring.

Credits would offset employment insurance, cost of new equipment

Small business got a boost in yesterday's federal budget with a break on employment-insurance premiums and an extension of a program to buy new equipment. However, with the combined opposition saying they'll vote down the document, the proposal is moot.

The budget measures are in addition to the billions in corporate tax cuts already announced that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has defended as a cornerstone of the economic recovery plan.

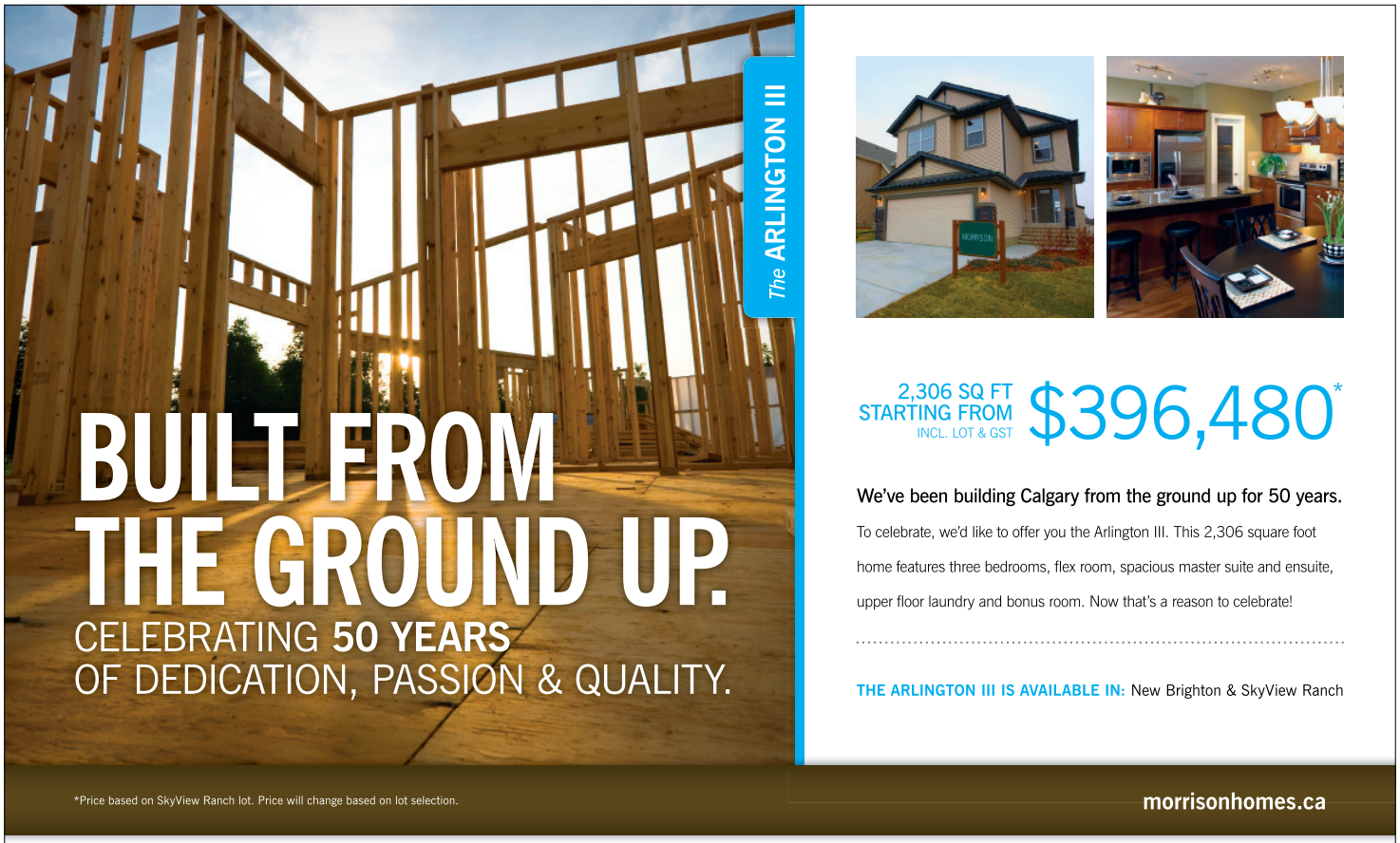
Small business would receive a credit worth up to $1,000 to offset increases in employment-insurance premiums. The one-time credit, which would affect about 525,000 small businesses, would offset the increase in premiums this year.

"We will keep taxes low, while taking action to close unfair tax loopholes."
JIM FLAHERTY, FINANCE MINISTER

Flaherty also extended to 2014 a program that allows companies to write off the cost of new equipment in two years, faster than normally allowed.

However, corporate Canada would pay more in some areas. Changes in the way partnerships work that allowed for the deferral of corporate tax, along with changes in the rules governing the way dividends are paid between corporations, would have brought in hundreds of millions of dollars for the government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE FOR ASSANGE

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

It's funny how life works.

For many of us, the idea of "destiny" is quaint, old-fashioned, from a time when the gods could not resist meddling in the lives of individuals.

Now, science has taught us that instead of being pre-destined by the Fates, stuff just happens. The universe is a cold, random place, and we're just lucky (or unlucky, depending on your point of view) bits of organized carbon.

But if that's the case, what's with Julian Assange and Scandinavia?

Consider the facts. Assange is the founder of WikiLeaks and has upset the global apple cart by leaking scads of U.S. State Department memos setting off scandals in virtually every world capital.

The lineup of leaders who would cheerfully strangle Assange forms over there on the left, but for some strange reason, his next destination appears to be Sweden, where he faces murky sexual assault charges. "Murky" because there appears to be a strong possibility that the sex in question was consensual and Assange may be the victim of his own personality, as in he's a cad.

"Now, science has taught us that instead of being pre-destined by the Fates, stuff just happens."

Assange is, of course, Australian, which is nowhere near Sweden. And his beef is with the U.S. State Department, which usually has little or nothing to do with Sweden. Meanwhile, he's holed up in the U.K., trying not to be extradited to Sweden, mainly because he's afraid Sweden will hand him over to the U.S.

Complicated.

While he's in the U.K. awaiting the appeal of the Swedish extradition order, he has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. If he wins that, to accept his prize, he will have to go to … Scandinavia! Oslo, Norway, to be precise, which is right next door to Sweden.

So, in a strange twist of what can only be called fate, Assange could either be incarcerated in Scandinavia as the lowest of the low, a sex criminal, or exalted in Scandinavia as the highest of the high, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, alongside Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Either this guy was a salmon in a previous life and is somehow pining for the fjords of his fingerling days, or his ridiculously fascinating life has prompted the gods out of retirement and they have arranged a good old-fashioned Norse saga to rival Beowulf.

After all, Assange is a little like Beowulf, but instead of Grendel, he has the U.S. government by the tail. Don't know about you, but I'd rather take my chances with Grendel.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Playing the Trump card

Worth mentioning

There's the blowhard billionaire. The "good ole boy" from the Deep South. The ever-maligned former Alaska governor. Another onetime governor whose action-movie-esque promotional ad has spurred guffaws, not respect. And a onetime congressional guiding light whose adulterous past still haunts him.

The Republican race for the 2012 presidential nomination hasn't officially begun yet, but if all the wannabe commanders-in-chief considering taking on U.S. President Barack Obama do throw their hats in the ring, the battle for the White House could be the most entertaining in years.

A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal and NBC suggests Donald Trump — yes, Donald Trump — has a higher approval rating than two of his would-be rivals, Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty. Trump, the star of The Apprentice, is pondering a run.

If he does decide to run, Trump could face challengers that rival him in the fame department, including Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor who recently told Israel to "stop apologizing" so much, and Newt Gingrich, the onetime speaker of the House of Representatives who hounded former president Bill Clinton about his affair with a White House intern while he himself was involved in an adulterous romance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

You're ... hired?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Are U.S. politics more entertaining than Canadian politics? Why?

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Metro Minute with Project Next

Those involved with the University of Calgary will have one last chance today to weigh in on the future vision for the institution.

Project Next, started by university president Elizabeth Cannon, is a strategic planning process to take the U of C to its 50th anniversary in 2016 and beyond. Those organizing the initiative have been busy hosting public awareness events and workshops — the last of which runs today at the university's downtown campus.

The workshop gets underway at 3:30 p.m. and a reception will follow afterwards. Those hoping to participate but unable to attend can also provide feedback on important planning questions online at ucalgary.ca/projectnext. METRO

METRO FILE

▶ Heather McCormick, the university's community engagement manager, has been fielding hundreds of responses from participants in Project Next.

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2 scene

Walk of Fame

Bryan Adams is now enshrined in concrete.

The Canadian singer, songwriter, guitarist, bassist and producer got his Hollywood Walk of Fame star Monday in front of the Musicians Institute.

Adams recalled visiting Hollywood Boulevard at 16 and marveling at the stars. He said he was humbled by seeing his own star.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ralph Macchio on top, Mike Catherwood finishes last as Dancing begins its 12th season

Can Canada produce another Shania Twain?

Even if a country star has made it big in Canada, it means nothing in highly competitive Nashville

Deric Ruttan still remembers exactly where he was the first time he heard Shania Twain on the radio in Nashville.

It was 1994, and a then-22-year-old Ruttan had just moved to the country-music hotbed in pursuit of a music career. He was driving his burgundy '87 Dodge Omni hatchback down historic Old Hickory Boulevard when a familiar voice strained through his car radio, singing Any Man of Mine.

"I was like: 'Oh, Shania, cool!'" said Ruttan in a telephone interview.

In the 17 ensuing years, Ruttan has remained in Nashville and forged a successful career as a country singer/songwriter who finally earned his first Juno nomination for country album of the year at this Sunday's awards gala in Toronto (CTV, 8 p.m. ET).

The show will also mark the 45-year-old Twain's induction into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, an honour that seems like something of a no-brainer to her peers given her achievements: more than 75 million albums sold worldwide, 12 Junos, five Grammys, 16 top 10 hits and multi-platinum album sales in 32 countries.

But, of course, Twain hasn't released an album of new music since 2002, and while country music continues to flourish in Canada, no Canuck artist has managed to claim even a fraction of Twain's Stateside success.

While several of this year's countrified Juno nominees have carved out successful careers in Nashville, the question remains: What will it take for Canada to produce another country star who shines like Shania?

"I think, probably, a beautiful mid-section," cracked Johnny Reid, who's up for four Junos at this weekend's show. "I gotta tell you, I don't think anybody knows the secret." Still, while Reid's right that there might not be a recipe for Canucks looking to find international stardom, a few of his peers have zeroed in on some of the ingredients.

Dean Brody, a Smithers, B.C., product who is up for country album of the year for his sophomore effort, Trail in Life, had a hit on U.S. country radio with his first-ever single, Brothers. At the time, he lived in Nashville — and while he's since relocated to Nova Scotia, he says a Tennessee address is essential for Canuck country singers hopeful for U.S. attention.

"I think the biggest thing, the toughest things for Canadians ... is to make it in the biggest market, you have to be able to live there," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Shania Twain is being inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

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Fighting the fight

Zack Snyder, director of Watchmen and the new movie Sucker Punch, takes on the studio system with a film based on his own original idea

NED EHRBAR
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With Sucker Punch, visually inventive director Zack Snyder (300, Watchmen) presents his first film based on his own original idea — and original is putting it lightly.

The film follows a group of girls trapped in an insane asylum who use their imaginations to escape their dark reality, transporting themselves to fiery, bullet-ridden battlefields where they dispatch enemies with stunt-filled fury.

But Snyder admits it wasn't easy to bring his vision to the screen. He spoke to Metro about his influences, not going 3-D and fights with the studio.

You make original movies. Do you ever get much interference from the studio?
Oh yeah. That's the danger. They have preconceived ideas about what a good movie is or what you should be doing, and I think that in the end you really just have to be true to yourself.

I feel like this movie pushes the envelope in all of its facets. You know, it's a female cast, it's got a complicated structure that's difficult. It has a dark ending that's not necessarily what they would've hoped for. Trust me, they did not like the ending. You just have to fight the fight.

How does having your wife, Deborah Snyder, as your producing partner help?
Those exact fights are the fights that she has every day to make sure the movie stays the movie I want to make. She really fights that fight.

You made Sucker Punch while also completing Legends of the Guardians. How did the two differ?
I wish Rango had come out before Guardians because when you see Rango you realize that they didn't give a s--- about the kids at all and they just made a cool movie.

We had that potential, I think, with Guardians, but everyone just said, "No, no, no, you can't do that. You've got to make a children's film." And so I got into a big fight with the studio because I just wanted to make an adventure movie with owls in it. But they were like, "No, no. You've got to soften it so that parents don't freak out." But I had a great experience with it.

Was there talk about making Sucker Punch 3-D?
Yeah, absolutely ... I've seen some great conversion stuff. This Korean company that was going to do it for Sucker Punch did a conversion of a five-minute sequence of 300 that was amazing, and I was like, "Wow. If they can do that level, maybe we can do something cool."

But to do it over the course of a whole movie is just not that easy. It's a bigger deal than the studios realize. And I think that the field is going to be leveled soon by cost versus return.

Because nobody knows. Right now the studios are just spending millions and millions of dollars to make a 3-D movie — like, $30 million more than it would cost to make a 2-D movie. So eventually someone's got to go, "OK. Is it worth it? Are they getting that money back?" You really start to wonder, is it worth the fuss?

GETTY IMAGES

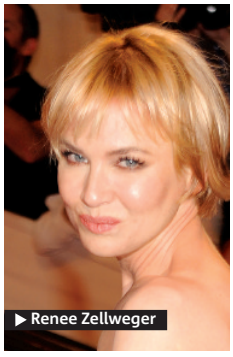
Director Zack Snyder

Renee got tired of waiting for a ring?

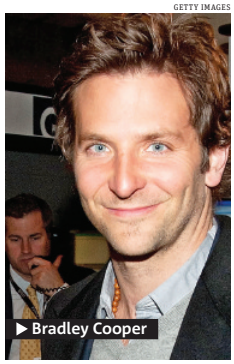
Friends say that's the reason she broke up with Bradley Cooper

Renee Zellweger and Bradley Cooper's two-year romance may have come to an end because Zellweger got tired of waiting for an engagement ring, sources tell Popeater.

"We all thought for sure they were going to be together forever after they moved in together last fall," a friend of Zellweger says. "But after that she wanted a ring, and he just wasn't ready to propose." Both have been married before, though, and neither ended well. "Renee was ready to give it another try with Bradley," the friend says. "She's 41 and has an Oscar. She's starting to think about children and settling down." METRO


▶ Renee Zellweger

GETTY IMAGES


▶ Bradley Cooper

Lohan's mom: 'My children don't steal'

▶ Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan is due in court Friday to enter a plea in her latest court battle, this one over a $2,500 necklace she allegedly stole — and her mom, Dina Lohan, says Lindsay may plead no contest.

"Obviously she's not pleading guilty. My children don't steal things. But the system is so strange out in L.A. We're considering options and just want to get this over with in the shortest amount of time," Dina tells the New York Daily News. METRO

Is Sean Penn seeing Scarlett?

Sean Penn's rumored romance with Scarlett Johansson appears to be heating up, as the couple were spotted out again, this time at a dinner with friends in West Hollywood, according to People magazine. "They were smiles all night and seemed to have a great time together. Scarlett and Sean sat very closely and exchanged flirty looks," a source says. "Scarlett acted very intrigued by him. She would smile, nod her head and just listen to his stories."

Talking points

Sheen may be back: Exec

PEOPLE. Charlie Sheen's departure from Two and a Half Men will be a temporary one, at least if Les Moonves has anything to say about it.

The top CBS executive is reportedly heading up negotiations to get the high-profile star back on the show, according to Radar Online.

"Moonves wants to get the show back on the air. He's all for it," a source says.

"He says certain people need to forget anything and everything Charlie's done recently and just move on with the business at hand." METRO

Pregnant Posh ponders what to wear

ROYAL WEDDING. Everyone is gearing up for Prince William's wedding to Kate Middleton next month, but the event has Victoria Beckham on edge, according to husband, David Beckham. What's causing anxiety?

"Victoria is obviously a little bit worried because she'll be a few more months pregnant by then," David says, according to Hollyscoop. METRO

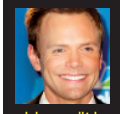
Lohan's dad arrested

LEGAL. Lindsay Lohan's father, Michael Lohan, has been arrested after his girlfriend filed a report accusing him of domestic violence, according to TMZ. METRO

Celebrity tweets

Ryan Seacrest [@Ryan Seacrest] who saw limitless?? Insanely good movie. Had to add Bradley Cooper into my bromantic circle of guys

Frankie Muniz [@frankie muniz] I just read that Ricki Lake may be coming back with a new talk show in 2012... all I can say is HELL YEAH.



Joel McHale [@joel mchale] Me to my 3yr old son, "I love you." My 3yr old's response back to me, "Thank you".

Nathan Fillion [@Nathan Fillion] Where there's smoke, there's fire. (Unless you are using Fireless Smoke.) METRO

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TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A display inside the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina, Sask. Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and will welcome the world's top male curlers, as well as their fans, who will visit the city during the event, which takes place April 2 to 10.

Hurry hard to curling worlds in Regina

Organizers expect a loud crowd at the men's world curling championship in Saskatchewan Go support Canada's team skipped by Jeff Stoughton

Saskatchewan is about to be swept away by curling and is ready to welcome those who want to ride the broom.

Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and is expecting thousands of fans along with the world's top male curlers, their families, officials, coaches and media. Derek Boe, chairman of the local organizing committee, says curling fans traditionally have been a quiet crowd but that's changing.

"Kind of what we noticed happening, mostly at Olympics this year out in Vancouver, was that things got rocking and rolling pretty good and the curlers loved it," said Boe, president of Curl Regina. "It is becoming a bit more of a raucous crowd and more enthusiastic and more lively and spirited."

Boe also notes that curling is Saskatchewan's official sport. There's no better place for visitors to brush up on curling lore than the Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina.

"You've got lots of big names from Saskatchewan curling and they're all represented with their team," says Sheila Kelly, the hall's executive director.

Among those honoured in the hall is Regina's Ernie Richardson — the only male curler in history to skip a team to four world titles.

There are medals and memorabilia from Sandra Schmirler. "Schmirler the Curler," as she was known, skipped her team to three Canadian titles, three world titles and a gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics. She died of cancer in 2000.

And then there's the Grand Transoceanic Match — a funspiel for spectators that started in the '70s as a way for curling fans to get to know each other on the ice.

"They're just amateurs that enjoy curling," said Boe. "They've just kind of established this tradition of going and attending the World Championships and said 'Jeez, wouldn't it be fun if while we were there we staged a little match.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go ...

- **Worlds.** The 2011 Ford World Men's Curling Championship will be held at Evraz Place. Ticket and draw schedule information can be found at curling.ca/championships/worlds.
- **Hall of Fame.** The Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 2205 Victoria Ave. Admission is free. More information can be found at sshfm.com
- **Funspiel.** The Grand Transoceanic Match will be held April 8 at the Caledonian Curling Club, known locally as the Callie.

3 life

Travel in brief

Via Rail is adding two sites to its Garden Route for 2011: Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens in Nova Scotia.

Now in its sixth year, the Garden Route promotes major horticultural attractions across the country. There are a total of 19 gardens on the route, from Butchart Gardens near Victoria, B.C., to Halifax Public Gardens in Nova Scotia.

Trains on the route include Montreal-Halifax, Quebec City-Windsor, Toronto-Niagara Falls and Toronto-Vancouver.

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SCANLIFE

Tour of Shanghai's Jewish history tells story of WWII refugees, crowded ghetto

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A whole lotta L.A. ...

LA local and celebrity chef on the Food Network's 'Private Chefs of Beverly Hills,' Sasha Perl Raver knows exactly where the cool kids hang out and dine If you don't catch her cycling along Venice Beach or drinking strawberry cocktails, she's probably hiking the Hollywood Hills or taking part in a free yoga class in Griffith Park

SASHA PERL-RAVER
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is in the middle of an amazing cultural renaissance. It's a bit like San Francisco and New York combined, with a mix of art, food and culture that isn't as shallow as its reputation.

One of the things I love most about living in Los Angeles is that you can go to the beach in the middle of February, which makes everyone outside the city super jealous.

When the sun rises, it scrubs the sky and you can see both the ocean and the snow-capped mountains, which are only about 30 minutes away by car.

It really is an iconic and beautiful place.

For more information check discoverlosangeles.com

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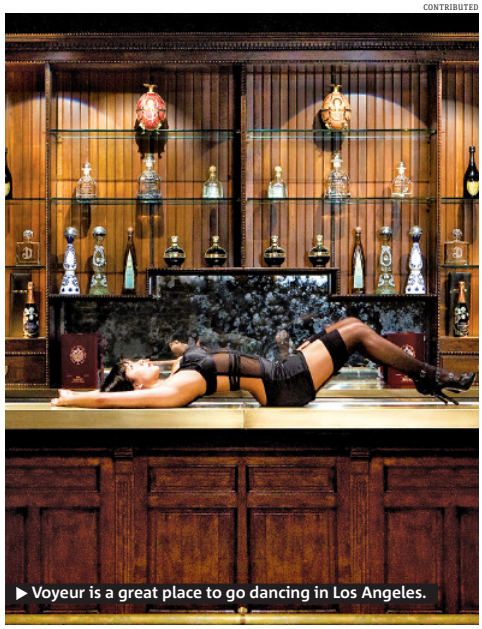


▶ Voyeur is a great place to go dancing in Los Angeles.

Stay in

You'll be close to Hollywood Boulevard and Walk of Fame if you stay at The Hollywood Renaissance. They also put movie candy on your pillow at night. ($239, renaissancehollywood.com).

Go out

Las Perlas does incredible margaritas. They are almost like a meal and you can get very tipsy on just one. The bar staff here is super cute.

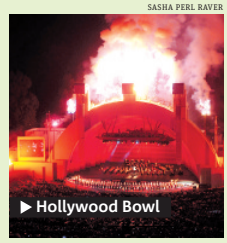
I love Voyeur for dancing. Some of the dancers are topless; others dangle from nets and some dance in glass boxes. It's not a strip club. The whole act is based on the 1930s.

The masks and top hats feel very Madonna circa her Express Yourself days.

First time?

Go to Santa Monica. It's touristy but so Baywatch it's awesome. Rent bikes and ride along the beach. Annenburg Beach House is a free beach resort where you can reserve a spot on the day and only pay a small parking fee. Have lunch at the Café at the Getty Villa. The best outdoor music venue is the Hollywood Bowl, where people bring food and wine and enjoy being under the stars. And if you have time, go to a Dodger's baseball game.

SASHA PERL RAVER



▶ Hollywood Bowl

Been there before?

Chateau Marmont is great, although it's more sceny than it used to be. It's now known for Lindsay Lohan but back in the day, this was where Greta Garbo lived and Jim Belushi died. Sit in the garden and order sticky toffee pudding and a pot of mint tea. It's got this incredible old-Hollywood glamour feel and you always see someone famous here, hence the strict no camera rule.

It's a running joke in L.A. but everyone goes to the "night club of exercise" the Runyon Canyon. It's a three-mile hike into one of the grand canyons and people treat it like the running runway. I would also go to Griffith Park, L.A.'s answer to Central Park, just way cheesier. They have free yoga classes three times a day and an amazing observatory where you can look through the telescope and see incredible views of L.A.

NIKOLAS KOENIG

▶ Chateau Marmont

Shopping!

Lots of people go to Rodeo Drive but personally, I think it's crazy, as all you get here is Pretty Women style stuff. I love Sunset Junction and in particular the Silver Lake Farmers Market. It's a foodie haven where you can get the most incredible selection of produce including vanilla, lavender and sweet onion sugar. It's full of hipster stuff to buy nearby and there is an amazing record store I go to called Vacation Vinyl. Abbot Kinny in Venice is where I go searching for antiques.

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▶ Silver Lakes Farmers Market

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Do you know the muffin woman?

Metro's food columnist, Emily Richards, shares the perfect Double Almond and Chocloate muffin recipe

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

These scrumptious Double Almond and Chocloate Muffins are packed with essential nutrients to help jump-start your day. Whip up a batch for breakfast or to tuck into lunch bags.

With a hint of banana flavour, they're are also perfect with an afternoon cup of tea.

Up the almond ante by spreading almond butter on a freshly baked muffin.

Preparation:

1. In large bowl, combine lemon juice and milk; set aside.
2. In another bowl, whisk pastry and almond flour, baking powder and soda, salt and cinnamon; set aside.
3. Using electric mixer beat in sugar, egg whites, oil and whole egg to milk mix; beat at high speed until well blended. Add banana, water and vanilla; beat at low speed until combined. With mixer on low speed, slowly add flour mixture to banana mixture until combined.
4. Spray muffin tins with cooking spray and spoon batter into cups. Sprinkle almonds and chocolate chips, if using, over muffins. Bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for 20 minutes or until tester inserted comes out clean. Let muffins cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remov and cool. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA. EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA**

Ingredients:

- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) low-fat or skim milk
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) almond flour (ground almonds)
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) canola oil
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (250 mL) mashed banana (about 3 medium)
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) water
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chocolate chips (optional)

THE CANADIAN PRESS HO/ CALIFORNIA ALMONDS

▶ You can omit lemon juice and milk and substitute with 1/4 cup (50 mL) buttermilk.

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MAKE YOUR NEEDS KNOWN

Taking time off

If you are sick at work or employ someone who is, consider these steps:

- Provide or request written medical authentication of an illness from a treating physician and ensure that the report is comprehensive.
- Meet and discuss accommodation. Employees don't need to disclose their condition, just the fact they have one and need assistance from their employer to remain productive.
- Request or provide modified work. Most jobs can be performed, despite an illness or disability, with reasonable adaptations.

ISTOCK

▶ Failing to clarify your needs to an employer during an illness could lead to complex legal situations should you feel discriminated against after the fact.

Employees dismissed for underperformance never go quietly. Often they complain that the cards were stacked against them or that their employer's decision was somehow unfair. But what about an employee who claims he was fired because of discrimination?

Sean Carter tried this card at a recent human rights hearing and learned that proving discrimination is more difficult than he thought.

Carter, a program coordinator at a rehab clinic in Hamilton, Ontario, was injured in a car accident that led to time off from work.

When he returned, Carter felt that he was treated differently at work, claiming that he was disciplined more often and his views were dismissed.

Carter then suffered from stress and depression, which he said resulted from workload and family deaths. His performance deteriorated, and when the clinic tried to manage it, Carter left.

He wrote in cryptically that he was going to see his doctor "for some results" and would be off work for a few weeks. Five days later, he was fired.

Carter complained to the Human Rights Tribunal in Ontario, perhaps Canada's most employee-friendly administrative body.

However, instead of finding that Carter was fired for his disability, the Tribunal found that he did not even have one. This is because Carter failed to show that he even disclosed a medical condition or any medically-related needs to his employer.

Therefore, the Tribunal wrote, Carter's employer had no obligation to accommodate him and his termination was unrelated to his request for medical leave.

Not every claim for sick leave leads to a "disability" that must be accommodated.

Too many employers accept cryptic doctor's notes without scrutiny and too many employees fail to properly clarify their medical needs. Most of the time, both employers and employees are just ignorant of the law.

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He's got an eye for gaming

Optometrists weigh in on gaming for kids younger than six years old
Experts argue consoles could flag hard-to-diagnose eye issues

SHUJI KAJIYAMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Vision specialists say the Number 1 health issue associated with console use and computer gaming is obsesity, rather than eye problems.

U.S. eye specialists are welcoming the Nintendo 3DS game device, dismissing the manufacturer's warnings that its 3-D screen shouldn't be used by children six or younger because it may harm their immature vision.

However many optometrists disagree. Some say it's a good idea to get your kids to try the 3-D screen, especially if they're younger than six. It won't do any harm, they say, and it could help catch vision disorders that have to be caught early to be fixed.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under six who need vision therapy," said Michael Duenas, associate director for health sciences and policy for the American Optometric Association.

The new handheld game device is already available in Japan and goes on sale in the U.S. on March 27 for $250. It has two screens like the DS machines it is designed to replace.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under six who need vision therapy."
MICHAEL DUENAS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

The top screen can show 3-D images without the need for special glasses, though only new games will be in 3-D. A pair of cameras on the 3DS can be used to take 3-D pictures.

If your kid doesn't see the 3-D effect on the 3DS, that's a sign that he or she may have a vision disorder such as amblyopia, or "lazy eye," or subtler issues that can cause problems with reading, Duenas said. Kids who experience dizziness or discomfort should also be checked, he said.

Today's 3-D viewing systems send different images to the right and left eyes, a technique that creates an illusion of depth. But a lot of the cues we use to perceive depth in our environment are missing. That confuses the eyes and accounts for the eye strain and headaches many people experience watching 3-D movies. Because of that, optometrists say, these systems can help isolate problems that have to do with the way the eyes move, problems that aren't caught by eye charts.

These problems are much easier to fix if caught before age six, when the visual system in our brains is still developing. Only 15 per cent of preschool children get a comprehensive eye exam that could catch these subtle problems, according to the American Optometric Association, the professional group for optometrists. More than half of all juvenile delinquents have undiagnosed and untreated vision problems, according to studies.

Going to see a 3-D movie or trying a 3-D TV can also help screen for problems, but optometrists expect the 3DS to be in front of kids' eyes more.

"This has presented my profession, optometry, a wonderful opportunity," said Joe Ellis, the president of the optometrists' association.

HE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doc, pass the Xbox

Toronto hospital is banking on video game technology to save time in the operating room

A team at Sunnybrook Hospital has started using the Xbox Kinect, a hands-free gaming console equipped with a motion sensor, to virtually manipulate key medical images during surgery.

The doctors use hand gestures to zoom in and out of the images or freeze a particular shot without leaving the operating table.

Surgeons typically have to leave the sterile field around the patient to pull up images such as MRI or CT scans on a nearby computer.

They then have to go through a meticulous cleanup before returning to the area to make sure they don't bring in any bacteria that could harm the patient.

It can take up to 20 minutes to clean up each time a doctor consults an image, said Dr. Calvin Law, who helped integrate the technology into the operating room.

Those interruptions sometimes cause more than an hour's delay over the course of a surgery, said Law, a surgical oncologist with the hospital's gastrointestinal cancer team.

"It all adds up," he said. By eliminating those delays, the hospital could save enough time to operate on more patients, he said.

What's more, it would help surgeons stay focused and decrease the risk of contamination by keeping everyone within the sterile field, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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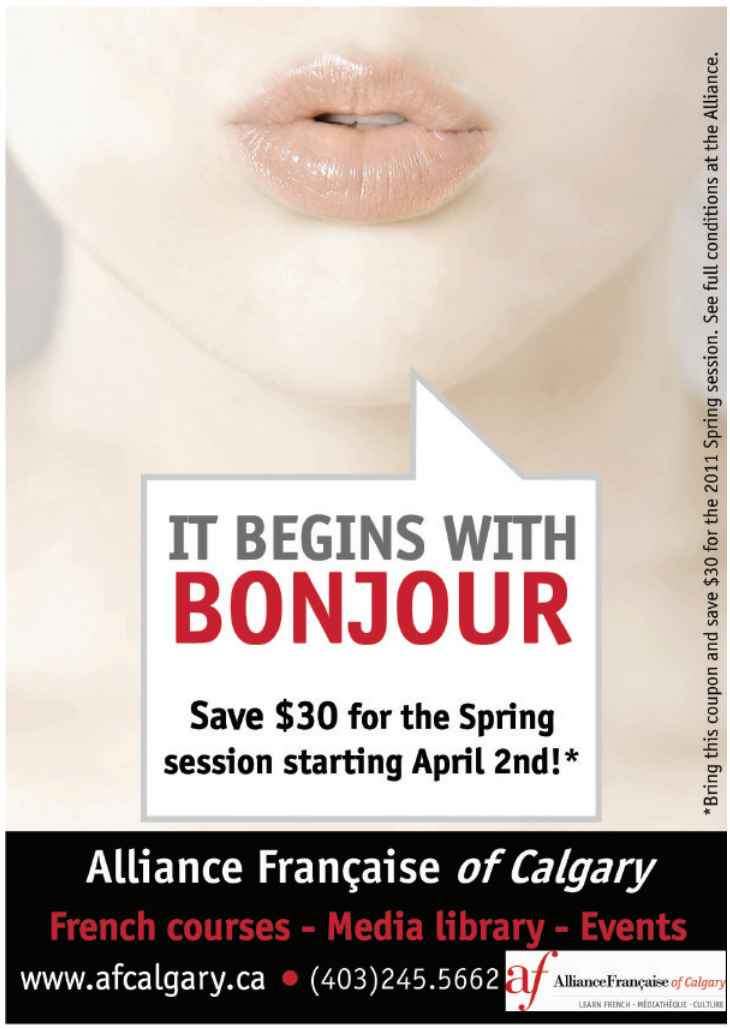
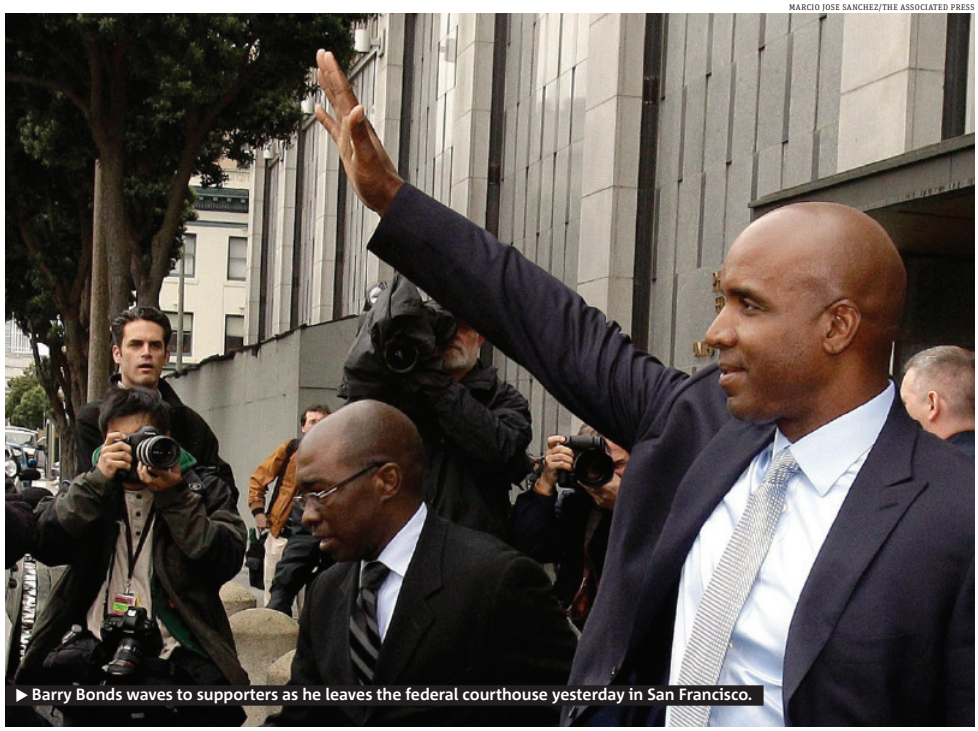


4 sports

Bonds' defence comes out swinging

Lead lawyer starts to pick apart government's case as testimony gets underway

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Barry Bonds waves to supporters as he leaves the federal courthouse yesterday in San Francisco.

With prosecutors saying Barry Bonds lied about using steroids, the home run king's lead attorney started picking at the government's case yesterday in San Francisco, attacking witnesses expected to accuse Bonds of wilfully taking drugs to make him hit the ball harder and farther.

Defence lawyer Allen Ruby, his rich voice sometimes inflected with sarcasm, said in his opening statement that a former Bonds girlfriend, a former business partner and a former personal shopper came forward against his client only after the baseball star broke off relationships with them.

He also insisted Bonds testified truthfully before a grand jury in December 2003 when he said he did not know he was using a pair of designer steroids. Bonds claims his trainer told him he was taking "flaxseed oil" and "arthritic cream."

"I know it doesn't make a great story. Barry Bonds went to the grand jury and told the truth and did his best," Ruby said.

"That's not a made-for-TV story."

On a day when federal agent Jeff Novitzky became the first witness to testify, saying Bonds' grand jury account differed with other facts in the case, the contrast in stories and legal teams could not have been greater.

While Ruby, a high-priced, high-profile defence lawyer, spoke in a booming baritone and painted Bonds as a victim over the course of an hour, assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew A. Parrella gave his 46-minute statement in a workmanlike monotone that had some jurors struggling to keep their heads up.

His two best lines drew objections from Ruby that were sustained by U.S. District Judge Susan Illston.

First, Parrella called BALCO founder Victor Conte, Bonds' trainer Greg Anderson and Bonds "the three Musketeers of BALCO."

Then, Parrella said Bonds' grand jury testimony was an "utterly ridiculous and unbelievable story." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flames preview

Flames at Sharks, 8 p.m.
TV: SNET-W
Radio: FAN 960

Calgary (37-27-11) dropped a 2-1 shootout loss to the Los Angeles Kings on Monday night. The Flames lost for the fifth time in six games following a 16-3-3 stretch.

San Jose (42-23-8) comes in having won three straight. The Sharks lost rookie Logan Couture in the second period of Saturday's 5-3 win over St. Louis with an apparent right leg injury. He's listed as day-to-day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Opinion

BRIAN COSTELLO
THE HOCKEY NEWS

FRINGE FLAMES NEED TO SHED DEAD WEIGHT

With each passing, heartbreaking overtime/shootout loss the Flames incur, the spectre Calgary will miss the playoffs becomes more and more a reality.

So in all likelihood, by the time April hits, the team will have to make a decision on acting GM Jay Feaster. It would be a shock if the Flames didn't give Feaster the gig. He's been a strong, personable advocate for the organization, has the business acumen to handle the job, and is wise enough to seek advice on matters that warrant sober second opinion.

So come off-season, what is Feaster going to do with the league's oldest roster almost at next year's salary cap? It (probably) wasn't good enough to make the playoffs and has four or five of its best players due to become unrestricted free agents. How can he make this outfit better?

Though I've had friendly dealings with Feaster in the past, he's not asking my opinion in this regard. But I'll offer it anyway and let him take care of the heavy lifting.

Every effort will be made to retain Alex Tanguay, Curtis Glencross, Brendan Morrison and Anton Babchuk. These UFAs got prime minutes in Calgary's lineup and could be sold on the idea playing for the Flames is in their best interests. It's unlikely they'd get the same playing time elsewhere. For that reason hometown discounts are in order, but even with that, all deserve healthy raises.

I'd also make an effort to retain UFAs Adam Pardy and Henrik Karlsson if they can be kept at a low price tag. Steve Staios is coming off the books at $2.7 million, but he'd be nice to keep around for $700,000 or so.

The only way Feaster can keep his productive UFAs is by making hard decisions on dead weight, namely Darryl's Duds. Former GM Darryl Sutter should have been fired on the spot for signing fringe centre Matt Stajan for four years at $3.5 million per. Stajan needs the Ales Kotalik treatment, getting demoted to the AHL next season. No one's going to want three more seasons of a soft, slow centre who scores about eight goals a year.

Kotalik and Niklas Hagman each make $3 million next season and will be bought out. That will cost Calgary $2 million into the cap each of the next two seasons.

All this will leave Calgary's payroll at $61.5 million next season, which will be close to the next cap figure. It also opens the door for Daymond Langkow's return and a new young face or two.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-Philadelphia	72	44	19	4	5	232	195	97	21-10-2-3	23-9-2-2	4-3-1-2	L1
d-Washington	74	43	21	5	5	203	180	96	22-8-2-5	21-13-3-0	9-1-0-0	W2
d-Boston	72	40	22	5	5	217	176	90	17-12-3-2	23-10-2-3	4-4-2-0	W1
Pittsburgh	73	42	23	5	3	213	181	92	22-13-2-0	20-10-3-3	6-2-2-0	W1
Tampa Bay	73	39	23	5	6	216	222	89	22-10-1-4	17-13-4-2	2-4-2-2	L3
Montreal	74	40	27	4	3	200	187	87	22-10-3-3	18-17-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Rangers	74	40	30	2	2	216	179	84	18-17-1-2	22-13-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
Buffalo	73	36	28	8	1	216	208	81	16-16-3-1	20-12-5-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Carolina	73	34	29	5	5	205	217	78	20-12-2-2	14-17-3-3	5-4-1-0	W2
Toronto	74	33	31	5	5	195	225	76	17-14-3-4	16-17-2-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Atlanta	72	30	30	5	7	202	237	72	15-14-2-5	15-16-3-2	5-4-1-0	L1
New Jersey	73	34	35	3	1	155	186	72	17-15-2-1	17-20-0-1	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Islanders	74	29	33	7	5	208	234	70	16-15-1-4	13-18-6-1	6-1-2-1	W2
Florida	73	29	34	5	5	182	199	68	15-15-5-4	14-19-0-1	3-4-2-1	L2
Ottawa	73	27	37	5	4	167	227	63	13-19-2-3	14-18-3-1	6-4-0-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
y-Vancouver	73	47	17	4	5	238	172	103	25-8-1-4	22-9-3-1	8-2-0-0	L1
d-Detroit	73	43	21	5	4	237	209	95	19-11-3-3	24-10-2-1	4-3-2-1	L2
d-San Jose	73	42	23	4	4	211	191	92	20-11-2-3	22-12-2-1	5-3-0-2	W3
Phoenix	74	39	24	7	4	213	207	89	17-12-4-2	22-12-3-2	6-3-1-0	L1
Los Angeles	73	41	26	4	2	199	177	88	21-12-3-0	20-14-1-2	6-2-2-0	W1
Nashville	74	39	25	6	4	193	174	88	20-8-4-3	19-18-1-1	7-2-1-0	W4
Chicago	72	39	25	3	5	234	203	86	22-14-0-0	17-11-4-4	6-2-1-1	W1
Anaheim	72	40	27	3	2	204	208	85	23-12-1-1	17-15-2-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Dallas	72	38	25	3	6	203	202	85	20-11-2-5	18-14-1-1	5-2-2-1	L1
Calgary	75	37	27	4	7	227	216	85	22-12-1-3	15-15-3-4	4-4-1-1	L2
Minnesota	74	35	31	3	5	185	207	78	17-15-2-3	18-16-1-2	2-6-2-0	L7
Columbus	73	33	29	4	7	199	223	77	16-16-1-3	17-13-3-4	2-4-1-3	L2
St. Louis	72	32	31	4	5	201	214	73	20-12-1-3	12-19-3-2	4-6-0-0	L2
Colorado	72	28	36	7	1	203	254	64	15-17-4-0	13-19-3-1	2-7-0-1	W2
Edmonton	73	23	40	2	8	176	240	56	12-20-1-4	11-20-2-3	3-5-1-1	L7

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division title; d — division leaders; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

Last night's results
Toronto 3 Minnesota 0
Nashville 3 Edmonton 1
Carolina 4 Ottawa 3
Buffalo 2 Montreal 0
Colorado 5 Columbus 4 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 1 Florida 0
Boston 4 New Jersey 1
Washington 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5 Tampa Bay 2
St. Louis at Phoenix

Monday's results
Pittsburgh 5 Detroit 4 (OT)
Los Angeles 2 Calgary 1 (SO)

Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Vancouver at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 10 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, WILD 0

First Period
1. Toronto, Lupul 10 (Bozak, Kessel) 1:39
Penalties — Nystrom Min (goaltender interference) 4:01, Cullen Min (boarding) 12:21, Brent Tor (interference) 13:06, Bouchard Min (tripping) 18:20.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Grabovski 28 (MacArthur, Kulemin) 11:20
Penalties — Gunnarsson Tor (tripping) 1:12, Brunette Min (hooking) 2:07, Stoner Min (cross-checking) 4:04, Schenn Tor (hooking) 7:04, Kadri Tor (tripping) 13:18.
Third Period
3. Toronto, Gunnarsson 4 (Grabovski, Kulemin) 2:13 (pp)
Penalties — Koivu Min (high-sticking) 1:35, Aulie Tor (interference) 7:06, Grabovski Tor (slashing), Zanon Min (roughing) 15:39, Aulie Tor (high-sticking) 17:14, Lashoff Tor (cross-checking) 19:21.
Shots

Toronto	8	3	6	—17
Minnesota	7	11	11	—29

Goal — Toronto: Reimer (W,16-7-4); Minnesota: Backstrom (L,21-20-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Toronto: 1-6; Minnesota: 0-7.
Referees — Brad Meier, Dean Morton. **Linesmen** — Brian Mach, Darren Gibbs.
Att. — 18,761 (18,064) at St. Paul, Minn.

PREDATORS 3, OILERS 1

First Period
1. Nashville, Erat 15 (Ward, Legwand) 4:08
2. Nashville, Hornqvist 19 (Kostitsyn, Suter) 7:40 (pp)
Penalty — Foster Edm (tripping) 7:06.
Second Period
3. Nashville, Legwand 14 (Suter, Weber) 7:00
4. Edmonton, Eberle 17 (Cogliano, Vandermeer) 9:38 (pp)
Penalties — Kostitsyn Nash (tripping) 8:45, Franson Nash (interference) 11:49.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Peckham Edm (tripping) 4:39, O'Marra Edm (hooking) 10:53, Fisher Nash (tripping) 15:15.
Shots

Edmonton	5	7	8	—20
Nashville	15	5	10	—30

Goal — Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,10-12-7); Nashville: Rinne (W,28-20-8). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 1-3; Nashville: 1-3.
Referees — Stephane Auger, Eric Furlatt.
Linesmen — Mark Wheler, Brad Kovachik.
Att. — 15,745 (17,113) at Nashville.

HURRICANES 4, SENATORS 3

First Period
1. Ottawa, Greening 3 (Spezza, Butler) 7:56
2. Ottawa, Svatos 2 (Condra, Hale) 13:40
3. Carolina, Ruutu 18 (Jokinen, Skinner) 14:07
4. Carolina, LaRose 14 (Pitkanen) 14:32
Penalties — Karlsson Ott (interference) 3:02, Stillman Car (goaltender interference) 3:58, Corvo Car (hooking) 18:32, Kuba Ott (interference) 18:51, Pitkanen Car (roughing) 19:54.
Second Period
5. Carolina, LaRose 15 (Bra.Sutter, Gleason) 18:17
Penalties — Z.Smith Ott (tripping) 5:33, Neil Ott (roughing) 8:33, Allen Car (tripping) 13:36.
Third Period
6. Carolina, Stillman 10 (E.Staal, Cole) 6:04
7. Ottawa, Karlsson 13 (Spezza, Foligno) 14:16
Penalties — None.
Shots

Ottawa	11	18	10	—39
Carolina	7	11	6	—24

Goal — Ottawa: McElhinney (L,9-11-1); Carolina: Ward (W,31-24-9). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 0-4; Carolina: 0-3.
Referees — Ghislain Hebert, Kelly Sutherland.
Linesmen — Andy McElman, Scott Cherrey.
Att. — 16,189 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

SABRES 2, CANADIENS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Boyes Buf (tripping) 5:10, Gill Mtl (tripping) 7:50, Subban Mtl (interference) 11:53.
Second Period
1. Buffalo, Gerbe 12 (Myers, Sekera) 8:56
Penalties — Mara Mtl (cross-checking) 2:09, Vanek Buf (goaltender interference) 3:13, Picard Mtl (tripping) 5:00.
Third Period
2. Buffalo, Gerbe 13, 19:38 (en)
Penalty — Wisniewski Mtl (hooking) 7:53.
Shots

Buffalo	9	10	5	—24
Montreal	12	10	9	—31

Goal — Buffalo: Miller (W,31-21-8); Montreal: Price (L,34-25-6). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Buffalo: 0-5; Montreal: 0-2.
Referees — Marc Joanette, Wes McCauley.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Michel Cormier.
Att. — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
D.Sedin, Vcr	38	55	93
Stamkos, TB	43	43	86
H.Sedin, Vcr	18	68	86
St. Louis, TB	26	59	85
Perry, Ana	39	40	79
Ovechkin, Wash	29	48	77
Zetterberg, Det	21	52	73
Toews, Chi	30	42	72
Kopitar, LA	25	47	72
Iginla, Cal	33	38	71
Sharp, Chi	34	34	68
B.Richards, Dal	25	42	67
Selanne, Ana	22	45	67
Crosby, Pgh	32	34	66
C.Giroux, Phi	23	43	66
Nash, Clb	31	34	65
Kesler, Vcr	36	28	64
E.Staal, Car	29	35	64
P.Kane, Chi	24	39	63
Eriksson, Dal	23	40	63
J.Carter, Phi	33	29	62

Last night's games not included

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
D.C. United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kansas City	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
New York	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Chicago	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
New England	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Toronto	1	0	1	0	2	4	0
Columbus	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
Houston	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Los Angeles	2	1	0	1	2	1	4
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Colorado	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dallas	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Chivas USA	1	0	1	0	2	3	0
Portland	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
San Jose	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Seattle	2	0	2	0	0	2	0

Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.
Friday's game
All times Eastern
Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Portland at Toronto, 2 p.m.
New York at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
D.C. United at New England, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4
Tampa Bay 7 Boston 4
Baltimore 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 4
Oakland 10 Cincinnati 8
Seattle 9 Chicago White Sox 5
Washington 3, Houston 1
Florida 3, Minnesota 0
Milwaukee 7 San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 2 Chicago Cubs 1 (10 inn.)
Cleveland 7 Arizona 3
L.A. Angels 14 Kansas City 6

Today's games
All times Eastern
NYM vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Phila. vs. T.B. at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Houston vs. Pitt. at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Florida vs. Atl. at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. Chi. Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. S.D. at Peoria, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
K.C. vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
LAD vs. CWS at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
San Fran. vs. LAA at Tempe, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Balt. vs. Minn. at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. NYY at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Seattle vs. Colo. at Scottsdale, Ariz., 9:40 p.m.

CURLING

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Esbjerg, Denmark

Country (skip)	W	L
Sweden (Norberg)	6	1
Switzerland (Ott)	5	2
Canada (Holland)	**4**	**3**
China (B.Wang)	4	3
Denmark (Nielsen)	4	3
Russia (Privivkova)	4	3
Germany (A.Schopp)	3	4
Norway (Githmark)	3	4
Scotland (Sloan)	3	4
U.S. (Lank)	3	4
Czech Rep. (Kubekova)	2	5
South Korea (Kim)	1	6

Yesterday's results
Ninth Draw
Canada 7 Czech Republic 4
China 8 Scotland 2
Germany 7 Norway 3
Sweden 8 Denmark 3
Draw 10
Denmark 8 Norway 3
Sweden 7 Germany 5
Switzerland 9 Russia 7
U.S. 8 South Korea 6
Draw 11
Canada 9 U.S. 6
Russia 8 Scotland 6
South Korea 11 Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 7 China 6 (extra end).

Today's games
Draw 12
Russia vs. Germany; Sweden vs. Switzerland; Denmark vs. South Korea; Norway vs. U.S.
Draw 13
South Korea vs. Scotland; China vs. U.S.; Russia vs. Czech Republic; Switzerland vs. **Canada.**
Draw 14
Sweden vs. **Canada**; Germany vs. Czech Rep.; China vs. Norway; Denmark vs. Scotland.

GOLF

PGA FEDEX CUP LEADERS

Through March 20

Points Money	YTD	
1. Mark Wilson	1,086	$2,268,825
2. Nick Watney	960	$2,278,000
3. Gary Woodland	945	$1,850,064
4. Rory Sabbatini	820	$1,573,194
5. Jhonattan Vegas	791	$1,479,510
6. Bubba Watson	763	$1,667,417
7. D.A. Points	737	$1,538,207
8. Luke Donald	718	$1,807,800
9. Jonathan Byrd	705	$1,404,148
87. Stephen Ames	**142**	**$254,243**

TENNIS

WTA SONY ERICSSON OPEN

At Key Biscayne, Fla.
Women's Singles — First Round
Melanie Oudin, U.S., def. Julia Goerges, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.
Iveta Benesova, Czech Republic, def. Roberta Vinci, Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Elena Baltacha, Britain, def. Sybille Bammer, Austria, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Zheng Jie, China, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3.
Patty Schnyder, Switzerland, def. Madison Keys, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Kristina Barrois, Germany, 7-5, 6-2.
Simona Halep, Romania, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 6-3, 6-2.
Johanna Larsson, Sweden, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Ayumi Morita, Japan, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 7-5, 6-2.
Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

All times Eastern
Regional Semifinals
EAST REGION
Friday's games
North Carolina (28-7) vs. Marquette (22-14), 7 p.m.
Ohio State (34-2) vs. Kentucky (27-8), 9:30 p.m.
SOUTHEAST REGION
Tomorrow's games
Florida (28-7) vs. BYU (32-4), 7:15 pm
Butler (25-9) vs. Wisconsin (25-8), 9:55 pm
SOUTHWEST REGION
Friday's games
Kansas (34-2) vs. Richmond (29-7), 7:15 pm
Florida State (23-10) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (26-11), 9:55 p.m.
WEST REGION
Tomorrow's games
San Diego State (34-2) vs. Connecticut (28-9), 7 p.m.
Duke (32-4) vs. Arizona (29-7), 9:30 pm

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	11	9	2	.818	132	101	—
Buffalo	10	7	3	.700	110	93	1½
Boston	11	6	5	.545	117	102	3
Rochester	10	5	5	.500	93	107	3½
Philadelphia	11	4	7	.364	99	125	5

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Calgary	11	8	3	.727	140	123	—
Minnesota	9	5	4	.556	102	98	2
Washington	11	5	6	.455	146	135	3
Edmonton	11	2	9	.182	117	147	6
Colorado	9	1	8	.111	80	105	6

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 12
Friday's games
All times Eastern
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 11 p.m.
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Rochester, 7:35 p.m.
Boston at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Sunday's game
Buffalo at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Chicago	51	19	.729	—
y-Boston	50	19	.725	½
x-Miami	48	22	.686	3
x-Orlando	45	26	.634	6½
Atlanta	40	31	.563	11½
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	15
New York	35	35	.500	16
Indiana	31	40	.437	20½
Milwaukee	28	41	.406	22½
Charlotte	28	41	.406	22½
Detroit	25	45	.357	26
New Jersey	22	47	.319	28½
Toronto	20	50	.286	31
Washington	17	52	.246	33½
Cleveland	13	56	.188	37½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	13	.814	—
y-L.A. Lakers	50	20	.714	7
x-Dallas	49	21	.700	8
d-Oklahoma City	45	24	.652	11½
Denver	42	29	.592	15½
Portland	41	30	.577	16½
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17½
Memphis	39	32	.549	18½
Houston	37	34	.521	20½
Phoenix	35	33	.515	21
Utah	36	35	.507	21½
Golden State	30	41	.423	27½
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	30½
Sacramento	17	52	.246	39½
Minnesota	17	54	.239	40½

d – division leader; **x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

Last night's results
Chicago 114 Atlanta 81
Portland 111 Washington 76
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Denver 123 Toronto 90
Orlando 97, Cleveland 86
Indiana 102, New Jersey 98
Boston 96 New York 86
Chicago 132 Sacramento 92
Memphis 103 Utah 85
San Antonio 111 Golden State 96
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

CRICKET

WORLD CUP

QUARTER-FINALS
Today's match
At Dhaka, Bangladesh
Pakistan vs. West Indies
Tomorrow's match
At Ahmadabad, India
India vs. Australia
Friday's match
At Dhaka, Bangladesh
South Africa vs. New Zealand
Saturday's match
At Colombo, Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka vs. England

CYCLING

VOLTA OF CATALUNYA

At Banyoles, Spain
Second stage
1. Alessandro Petacchi, Ita., Lampre, 4 hr 11 min 8 sec; 2. Jose Joaquin Rojas, Spn., Movistar, same time; 3. Manuel Cardoso, Por., Radioshack, s.t.; 4. Samuel Dumoulin, Fra., Cofidis, s.t.; 5. Aitor Galdos, Spn., Caja Rural, s.t.; 6. Giacomo Nizzolo, Ita., Leopard Trek, s.t.

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Engine

The starting-point engine is a V6, but it will initially be the 302-horsepower 3.5-litre unit for the SLK 350. Mercedes-Benz reports that the V6 SLK will sprint to 96 km/h in 5.6 seconds.

Later in the model year — likely early 2012 — a new base-model SLK250 is expected, sporting a 201-horsepower turbocharged 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine that replaces the outgoing 228-horsepower 3.0-litre V6.

Magic Sky Control

The SLK's signature lightweight power-retractable hardtop returns for the 2012 model year, but you can now opt for a panoramic glass roof that can be ordered with "Magic Sky Control."

With the press of a button, the glass can be changed from a dark tint to clear, depending on the time of day or to suit your personal preference.

Spruced-up interior

Coming in for some sprucing up is the SLK's interior that showcases a new flat-bottom steering wheel, plenty of brushed aluminum trim on the centre console, plus four oversized chromed air vents that don't quite seem to fit with the car's otherwise restrained cabin design.

Optional are special leather coverings that keep the seats cooler by reflecting the sun's rays.

▶ It's the least expensive Mercedes-Benz convertible, but do you really need much more than the SLK to make a statement while enjoying the open air?

Feel good and look good in this drop-top

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

With 110 years of sports-car history in its back pocket, Mercedes-Benz has learned a thing or two about what makes these cars and their proud owners tick.

And this vast experience is packed into the 2012 SLK roadster that's due to arrive this summer.

Style and substance are necessary ingredients for any sports car, but, for Mercedes-Benz, how the vehicle makes you feel and how others see you behind the wheel are perhaps treated with equal importance.

SLK customers will likely feel and look particularly good with this third-generation drop-topper. As well, anyone approaching the SLK from afar will instantly notice the dominating three-pointed star affixed to the grille. In fact, they might even mistake the SLK for the similar-looking SL or even the SLS AMG relations that cost considerably more.

The king-size Mercedes-Benz logo is part of a larger and more upright grille, one-piece lower air intake and enlarged all-LED (Light Emitting Diode) headlamps that provides the illusion that the SLK is much lower and wider than its predecessor.

There's no word yet regarding the return of a high-performance AMG version, so for now the fuel-sipping four-cylinder and more mainstream V6 will have to do.

However, for SLK drivers it's how you arrive that's just as important as how rapidly you arrive. Either way, you're practically guaranteed to get there with a smile.

▶ From this angle you can see that the nose is almost perpendicular to the road.

▶ A rear view of the SLK.

SLK-Class

What you should know about the 2012 Mercedes-Benz SLK-Class:

- **Type:** Two-door luxury hardtop convertible.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.8-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (201); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (302)
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual (std.,1.8), Seven-speed automatic (opt. with 1.8, std. with 3.5).
- **Market Position:** The SLK is the starting point in a trio of impressive sports cars that tops out with the $200,000 SLS AMG.
- **Points:** Front-end styling is more aggressive and luxurious; Trick day/night sunroof will be popular option.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.6/8.0 (3.5, est.)

By comparison

Audi TTS roadster
Base price: $54,500
Four-wheel-drive soft-top sticks to four-cylinder turbo engine choices.

BMW Z4
Base price: $55,000
Recent facelift has this "Bimmer" looking and acting better than ever.

Infiniti G37
Base price: $60,200
Two + two folding hardtop model comes with 325-hp V6 plus plenty of extras.

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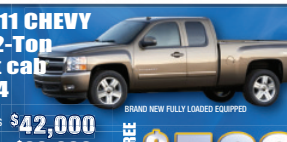

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TWO AND A HALF CANADIAN SUPERCARS

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@ METRONEWS.CA

You're shopping for a mid-engine supercar with carbon-fibre construction and at least 750 horsepower — and it must be designed and built in Canada. How many options do you have?

Would you believe, "two and a half?" Do you not find that weird? Weird that the answer is not zero ... Weird that Charlie Sheen keeps cropping up no matter what you start talking about.

One of the cars on the list is the Plethore LC-750 designed and built in St-Eustache, Que. We've been aware of the LC-750 for some time (and spoken about it in this space before), because the man behind the car, Luc Chartrand, started working on this car about 10 years ago.

It has been making the rounds of Canadian auto shows this season, in production-ready trim, and the company is now in a position to start delivering examples — at $450,000 each.

So that's option "one." Option "two" is the de Marcross GT1.

The de Marcross Motors Corporation (DMMC) was founded by Jahong Hur, a successful Korean businessman with family ties to GS Group, one of Korea's largest conglomerates. DMMC, with administrative offices in Vancouver, intends to build several de Marcross models, in addition to this just-introduced GT1 flagship.

Hur styled, conceived and bankrolled the car, but it was engineered and built by Multimatic, of Markham, Ont.

Multimatic also created production tooling, so it can build more GT1s — if anyone steps up to the plate with its estimated $1 million-plus MSRP.

CONTRIBUTED

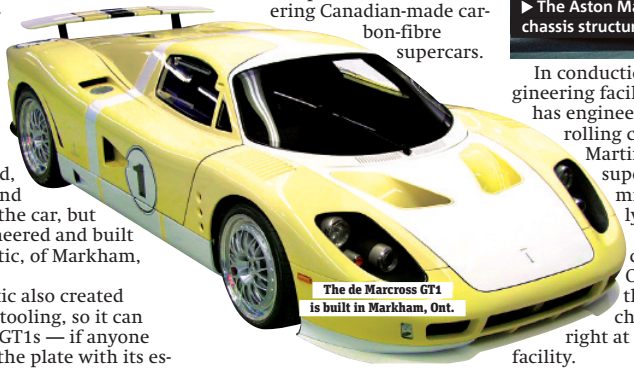
▶ The HTT Plethore LC-750 is made in St-Eustache, Que.

Like the LC-750, the GT1 packs a super-charged V8.

The GT1's chassis tub is carbon fibre, but its body panels, and front and rear substructures are aluminum (the LC-750 is all carbon fibre and/or composite material).

Multimatic engineers and builds auto parts; its list of automaker clients includes practicably everybody — from Ford to BMW to Aston Martin to Formula One racing teams.

Which brings us to why there is a "half" option, when considering Canadian-made carbon-fibre supercars.



The de Marcross GT1 is built in Markham, Ont.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The Aston Martin One-77's state-of-the-art carbon fibre chassis structure is constructed at its Markham, Ont. facility.

In conduction with its U.K. engineering facility, Mutlimatic has engineered the complete rolling chassis of the Aston Martin One-77 — a super-exclusive $2 million supercar (only 77 will be built).

Multimatic also constructs the One-77's state-of-the-art carbon fibre chassis structure right at its Markham, Ont. facility.

We had a quick tour of where the Aston tubs are built up and it looks more like a fabric enterprise than a typical body shop, as technicians cut and layer the raw sheets of carbon fibre.

We also saw the big oven, where finished tubs are baked to perfection.

So take that, Tim Hortons. You may bake more units than Plethora and Multimatic, but these guys have it all over you when it comes to high tech and structural stiffness.

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2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland shown.§

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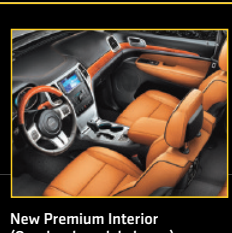
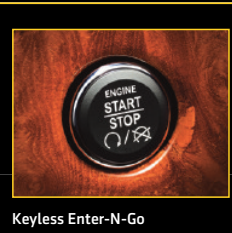

New Premium Interior (Overland model shown)



Keyless Enter-N-Go

Jeep.ca/Offers

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Wise customers read the fine print: • ±, ††, § The Drive it to Believe it Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after March 1, 2011. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealers for complete details. Offers and conditions ♦$37,998 Purchase Price applies to 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (26E) only. Price includes freight ($1,400) and excludes license, registration and dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. ±Variable Prime Rate financing up to 84 months is offered on approved credit on most new 2010 and 2011 vehicles to qualified retail customers through TD Financing Services, Royal Bank of Canada and Scotiabank. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84-month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD, RBC and Scotiabank Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer not open to Quebec dealers. TD offer is not open to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. See participating dealers for complete details. ††Customer Choice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on most new 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models (except Grand Caravan Cargo Van and Ram Chassis Cab) and select 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. **(Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your dealer for complete details.)** Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Example: 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (26E) with a purchase price of $37,998 financed at 3.99% for 60 months with payments amortized over 84 months equates to $232 bi-weekly for a total obligation of $24,940. Taxes, insurance, registration, excess mileage and other applicable charges are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ‡‡Offer includes $1,400 freight and excludes license, registration and dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ◆Based on *Maclean's* 2011 Middle Sport Utility Vehicle segmentation. □Based on 2011 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under licence. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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Performance to price ratio is nice

Dodge's affordable performance weapon was tough and reliable

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Launched in 2003 to a primarily Japanese-dominated market of affordable performance cars, the Dodge SRT4 had a simple goal: delivering the ultimate performance in its class.

Effectively a tweaked-up Neon with a 230-horsepower turbocharged punch and various chassis and cosmetic upgrades, the SRT4 was designed to deliver top levels of styling, acceleration and handling. Shoppers can look for up to 230 horsepower, as well as a limited slip differential and larger fuel injectors on 2004 and 2005 models. All models got a five-speed manual transmission.

Don't miss the large spoiler, dual exhaust, lowered suspension and hood scoop, either. Ultimately, the SRT4 was as mean looking as the googly-eyed Neon ever looked.

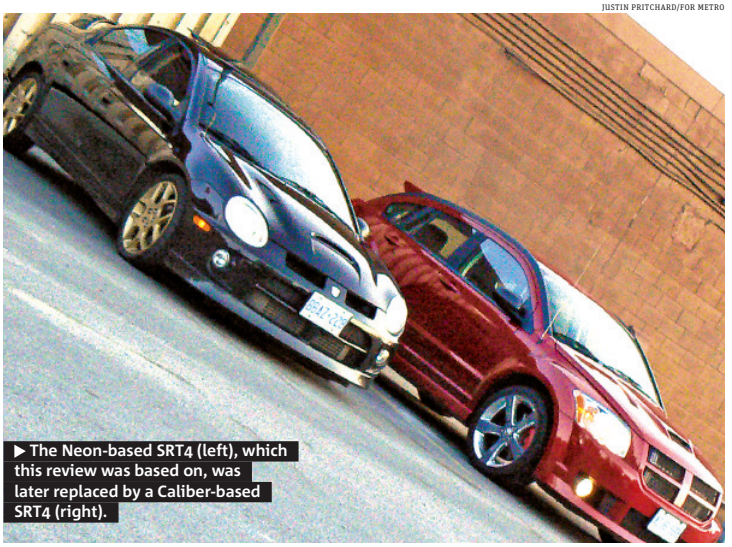
Those shoppers prioritizing maximum speed and power for their money won't be disappointed. Look for bolstered sport seats, power front windows (the rear windows were manual) a sunroof and an upgraded audio system.

Many SRT4 owners take to online forums to show off their rides, discuss upgrades and bash imported sports cars. As a result, there's a huge online community and plenty of resources available for new owners.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2003 to 2005 Dodge SRT4
- **Vehicle Type:** Compact performance sedan
- **Approximate used price range:** $6,500 to $12,000

JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO



▶ The Neon-based SRT4 (left), which this review was based on, was later replaced by a Caliber-based SRT4 (right).

What Owners Like

Looks, power output, performance, handling and relative attainability are all strong points of the SRT4 as stated by owners. Those into aftermarket customization also love the slew of available add-ons in the marketplace.

What Owners Hate

Some owners report that the sport seats are too narrow, stiff and unforgiving on long trips. Others wish for a more premium look and feel to the cabin, a more comfortable and quiet ride, and a quieter exhaust system.

Note that performance enthusiasts typically accept the SRT4's refinement compromises, given its performance-to-price ratio.

Common Issues

Chrysler had been producing the Neon for years before its evil twin was released, and they've got plenty of experience with turbocharged engines, too. As such, the SRT4 appears to offer above-average reliability in a used sports model. Your writer's research, perhaps surprisingly, revealed no glaring issues, recalls or major concerns.

Of course, standard used sports-car shopping rules still apply. Mainly, be weary of a used SRT4 that's had obvious modifications performed.

Don't forget to check the condition of the engine oil and expendables like brake pads, the clutch, and tires. A trip to a dealer mechanic may be in order to give the car the once over for peace of mind.

The Verdict

A well-priced, healthy and un-modified Dodge SRT4 should reliably provide budget velocity and killer looks for years to come.

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GT model shown

2010 RX-8
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GT model shown

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0% purchase financing for up to 48 months
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INCLUDES $250 OWNER LOYALTY CASH

2011 MAZDA 3
0% purchase financing for up to 60 months
Finance from $137 bi-weekly for 60 months at 0% APR
On Finance Price from $17,795. Includes freight, PDI, and block heater. Taxes extra.
INCLUDES $250 OWNER LOYALTY CASH

2011 CX-7
0% purchase financing for up to 48 months
or
Finance from $223 bi-weekly for 60 months at 1.9% APR
On Finance Price from $27,545. Includes freight, PDI, and block heater. Taxes extra.
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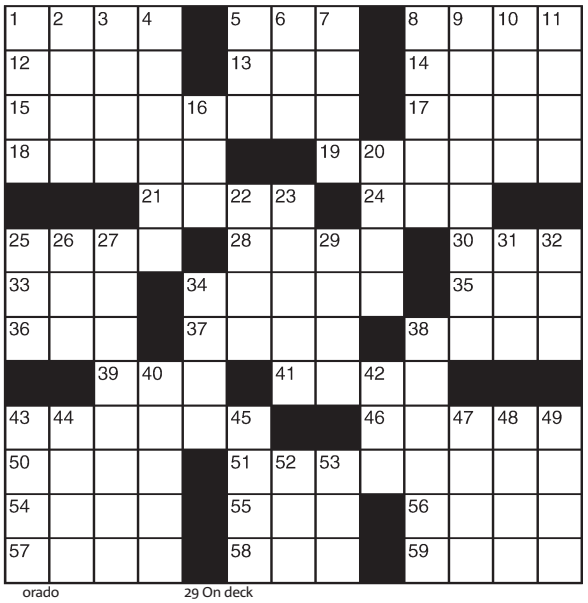
Crossword



Across

1 Safecracker
5 Collection
8 Memo acronym
12 Seed coat
13 In favour of
14 Sitarist Shankar
15 Soldierly
17 Radar screen noise
18 Defense grp., 1954-77
19 Mate
21 Gear teeth
24 Illustrations
25 Morse "T"
28 Dryer fluff
30 Rd.
33 — Khan
34 Tarzan's transportation
35 Carnival city
36 There
37 Mountain goat
38 Blue shade
39 "This — recording"
41 Celebrity
43 Nursery item
46 Labour camp
50 Birthright barterer
51 Pertaining to funds
54 Swiss city
55 Rage
56 Despot
57 Emulates Simon
58 Ball-bearing item
59 Blood (Pref.)

Down

1 Thanksgiving sides
2 Great Lake
3 River to the Colorado
4 Slight snafu
5 Resort
6 Mess up
7 Santa's sackful
8 Latticework shelter
9 Healthful
10 Hertz rival
11 Prop for Sherlock
16 As well
20 Butter servings
22 Smooth-talking
23 Trig functions
25 Rotation duration
26 Past
27 Very clean
29 On deck
31 Through
32 A long time
34 Test tube
38 Broken-leg aid
40 Stupefies
42 Candle count
43 CSA soldiers
44 On the briny
45 Send out
47 Lounge about
48 Composer Khachaturian
49 Pita sandwich
52 Raw mineral
53 Born

▶ Yesterday's answer

H	A	R	M		R	P	M		B	O	L	A
E	T	U	I		I	I	I		R	A	I	D
N	E	G	L	E	C	T	S		O	R	E	O
			I	R	E		C	E	N	S	U	S
A	G	R	E	E		D	A	R	T			
L	U	A	U		D	I	S	S	E	C	T	S
P	R	Y		B	E	T	T	E		O	U	T
S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S		M	O	T	E
			H	E	R	O		H	O	K	U	M
L	U	P	I	N	E		W	A	D			
O	P	A	L		P	R	O	J	E	C	T	S
T	O	R	I		I	O	N		S	P	A	R
S	N	A	P		T	N	T		T	A	X	I

Sudoku

		3		5		7	9	
4	7		9				1	
		8			6			
		9		6				
6		1				2		3
				1		8		
			7			5		
	1				4		8	7
	2	5		9		4		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	3	4	1	2	5	9	8	6
1	6	2	9	3	8	5	4	7
5	9	8	6	7	4	3	2	1
4	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	3
6	2	9	3	1	7	4	5	8
3	8	1	4	5	2	6	7	9
2	1	6	5	8	3	7	9	4
8	4	7	2	9	6	1	3	5
9	5	3	7	4	1	8	6	2

Send a KISS

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Buzz, you've taught me so much about life and myself. i'm a better person because of you. I love you more than anything. Can't wait to see what the future holds babe Love Always Baby Girl **NES**

Swamp, I love YOU more. So there. & I wont ever stop. **PANDA**

Princess Yanna! Happy Birthday filled with love and happiness. **B&F LOVE YOU**

Juicy, you truly are special & I enjoy everyday spent with you. Looking forward to sharing my future with you. **LOVE ALWAYS HABIBI XO**

hey G, I'm thinking of you still; if you're thinking of me too, give me a call and we could talk. I miss you **M**

Fod, you're a friend that everybody wishes for, but few have. Simply put, youre the Best! **FOD SQUAD 4EVER!**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -5°	Min -5°	Min -8°
Max -4°	Max -1°	Max 0°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You like to be on the winning side and there's not much doubt you will be today. Remember though, winning isn't everything. If you get the chance to help someone else win, that will make you feel as good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Decide on a course of action and stick to it. The more you chop and change, the more likely it is your efforts will fall short and leave you feeling as if you have wasted your time.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If someone says something about you that is obviously not true today, you must not get angry. It will annoy him or her more if you pretend that you are not in the least bit upset.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Someone in a position of authority will ask you to team up with someone you don't really get along with today. Chances are, it is more of an order than a request. Make it work.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you allow others to distract you today, chances are you won't get much done. That would be a shame as you have so much going for you now. You cannot afford to be sidetracked by petty issues or petty people.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You seem to be under divine protection at the moment, but that is not an invitation to act recklessly. By all means take a few risks but make sure they are risks you can handle.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Why are you holding back from trying something new? Could it be your sixth sense warning you of dangers ahead? Yes, it could, so be careful. But don't stop altogether.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Take control of your current situation and don't let other people decide what you'll do or how you you'll do it. As a Scorpio, you don't need to care what the world thinks.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There is good and bad in every person. If you keep that in mind today, you are less likely to get caught in one of those "I'm right, you're wrong" shouting matches that don't solve anything.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Be ready to ditch what you don't need so that what you do need has room to come in your life. Don't be sentimental about material possessions.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You're not the sort to let other people's doubts hold you back. That's just as well because you will encounter some negative reactions today. What you are planning is not doomed. It will be a success.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You may not want to rock the boat but you know that something needs to be done to shake certain people out of their slumber. Aim to inject energy into what has become just another routine. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAVE CHIDLEY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

RICH MATTHEWS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Model# BK4DVA AA

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2011 Tacoma Model# UX4ENP BA, 60mth lease, 3.9%, $3,559 down, $500 Celebration Bonus, LEV $12,338. 2011 Camry Model# BF3ELT AA, 60mth lease, 3.9%, $3,000 down, $500 Celebration Bonus, LEV $9,457. 2011 Corolla Model# BU42EP BA, 60mth lease, 3.4%, $2,265 down, $500 Celebration Bonus, LEV $7,694. 2011 RAV4 Model# BK4DVA AA, 60mth lease, 3.4%, $3,510 down, $1,000 Celebration Bonus, LEV $12,604. 2011 Venza Model# BA3BBT AA, 60mth lease, 3.4%, $3,301 down, $1,000 Celebration Bonus, LEV $11,470. 2011 Matrix Model# KU4EEP BA, 60mth lease, 3.4%, $2,500 down, $250 Cash Incentive to Dealer, $250 Celebration Bonus, LEV $8,404. 2011 Sienna Model# ZK3D CT AA, 60mth lease, 4.9%, $3,953 down, LEV $10,865. 2011 Tundra Model# UY5F1T BA, 60mth lease, 4.9%, $3,725 down, $1,000 Cash Incentive to Dealer, $500 Celebration Bonus, LEV $14,569. Freight, PDI and block heater included, GST extra. TFS approval OAC. Cash rebates in lieu of special TFS rates. Vehicles may not be exactly as illustrated.